

JUNE 29, 1999

**STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE SCHAKOWSKY ON RESOLUTION CONDEMNING DESTRUCTION OF SACRAMENTO SYNAGOGUES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) submitted the following statement to the Congressional Record in support of a Congressional Resolution condemning the destruction of three Sacramento synagogues.

"I rise today in strong support of a resolution condemning the acts of arson at three Sacramento, California area synagogues on June 18, 1999. The destruction done to Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Keneset Israel Torah Center was malicious and willful. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Resolution introduced by the gentleman from California, and denounce these acts of hate."

"As a Jewish Member of Congress I am particularly sensitive to acts of anti-Semitism. The elected leaders of this great country must never permit these types of actions to occur. The Jewish community has endured a great deal of persecution throughout history, and as Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to provide a strong voice of opposition to threatening acts of hate."

"The people of the 9th Congressional District, whom I have the privilege to represent, pride themselves on the rich diversity that our district boasts. Diversity in the 9th Congressional District is seen as a unique attribute, not a threat. The recent acts of hate perpetrated in Sacramento are an insult to me and to all Americans who celebrate the diversity and ethnic traditions from which this country has benefited. An attack on any place of religious worship is a threat to the freedom of expression and religion that we all enjoy."

"I applaud my colleagues who have taken a strong leadership role on this issue, and I would like to associate myself with the comments of those who have spoken on the House floor in support of this resolution. It is important for this body and Americans across the country, to speak out against all crimes of hate. I am proud to support this resolution."